

**In the Claims:**

Also please cancel without prejudice claims 7, 10, 14 and 15, add claims 16 to 22 and amend claims 5 as follows:

Claims 1 to 4 (canceled).

5(currently amended). A method for dyeing keratinic fibers, in which the keratinic fibers initially are pretreated with an aqueous preparation, said aqueous preparation containing at least one physiologically compatible salt of an organic or inorganic acid promoting absorption of an anionic, direct dye applied to the fibers, and subsequently the keratinic fibers are dyed with a dyeing agent, said dyeing agent containing at least one anionic, direct dye.

6(previously presented). The method of claim 5, wherein the keratinic fibers are hair and the dyeing agent is allowed to act on the hair from 5 to 60 minutes at a temperature of 20 to 50°C, depending upon desired color intensity, and the hair is then rinsed with water, optionally washed with a shampoo and dried.

Claims 7 to 10 (canceled).

11(previously presented). The method of claim 5 or 6, wherein said at least one physiologically compatible salt is selected from the group consisting chlorides, bromides, sulfates, lactates, tartrates, citrates, malates, glycolates,

glycerophosphates, pantothenates, phosphinates, glutamates, gluconates, phosphates, formates, sorbates, aspartates, orotates, oxalates, acetates, and mixtures thereof, and said at least one physiologically compatible salt includes at least one of sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, ammonium, aluminum and zinc.

12(previously presented). The method of claim 5 or 6, wherein said at least one physiologically compatible salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, calcium pantothenate and mixtures thereof.

13(previously presented). The method of claim 5 or 6, wherein said aqueous preparation contains from 0.01 to 10 percent by weight of said at least one physiologically compatible salt.

Claims 14 to 15 (canceled).

16(new). A method for dyeing keratinic fibers, in which the fibers are initially pretreated with an aqueous preparation, said aqueous preparation containing at least one physiologically compatible salt of an organic or inorganic acid and no oxidizing agents, and subsequently the keratinic fibers are dyed with a dyeing agent, said dyeing agent containing at least one anionic, direct dye.

17(new). A method for dyeing keratinic fibers, in which the fibers are initially pretreated with an aqueous preparation and subsequently the keratinic fibers are dyed with a dyeing agent, said dyeing agent containing at least one anionic, direct dye;

wherein said aqueous preparation consists of water, at least one physiologically compatible salt of an organic or inorganic acid and at least one additive ingredient; and

at least one additive ingredient is selected from the group consisting of pH-adjusting agents, aliphatic alcohols, wetting agents, emulsifiers, thickeners, perfumes, conditioners, swelling agents, preservatives, petrolatum, paraffin oil and fatty acids.

18(new). A method for dyeing keratinic fibers, in which the fibers are initially pretreated with an aqueous preparation and subsequently the keratinic fibers are dyed with a dyeing agent, said dyeing agent containing at least one anionic, direct dye;

wherein said aqueous preparation contains at least one physiologically compatible salt of an organic or inorganic acid and wherein said at least one physiologically compatible salt is selected from the group consisting of chlorides, bromides, sulfates, lactates, tartrates, citrates, malates, glycolates, glycerophosphates, pantothenates, phosphinates, glutamates, gluconates, phosphates, formates, sorbates, aspartates, orotates, oxalates, acetates, and mixtures thereof, and said at least one physiologically compatible salt includes at least one

of sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, ammonium, aluminum and zinc

19(new). The method as defined in claim 18, wherein said at least one physiologically compatible salt is sodium chloride, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, calcium pantothenate and/or a mixture thereof.

20(new). A method for dyeing keratinic fibers, in which an aqueous preparation is mixed with a dyeing agent to form a dye mixture prior to dyeing the keratin fibers and then the keratinic fibers are dyed with the dye mixture;

wherein the aqueous preparation contains at least one physiologically compatible salt of an organic or inorganic acid promoting absorption of at least one anionic direct dye applied to the fibers; and

wherein said dyeing agent contains said at least one anionic, direct dye.

21(new). The method of claim 16, 17, 18 or 20, wherein the keratinic fibers are hair and the dyeing agent is allowed to act on the hair from 5 to 60 minutes at a temperature of 20 to 50°C, depending upon desired color intensity, and the hair is then rinsed with water, optionally washed with a shampoo and dried.

22(new). The method of claim 16, 17, 18 or 20, wherein said aqueous preparation contains from 0.01 to 10 percent by weight of said at least one physiologically compatible salt.